

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03377 021916Z

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3088

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PDUP BREAKS APART

1. A LONG SIMMERING DISPUTE HAS FINALLY COME TO A HEAD, AND THE PARTY OF PROLETARIAN UNITY (PDUP) SPLIT APART DURING A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING LAST WEEKEND. THE DISPUTE WHICH HAS DIVIDED THE PARTY EVOLVES AROUND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TO SO-CALLED EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY LEFT AND THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI).

2. DURING THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, THE MAJORITY (THE SO-CALLED MANIFESTO GROUP) ARGUED THAT THE PARTY SHOULD FIGHT, FROM A POSITION ON THE LEFT, THE POLICIES OF THE PCI BUT NOT THE PCI ITSELF, IN THIS WAY WORKING FOR AN EVENTUAL ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT IN ITALY, INCLUDING A CPI WHICH HAS BACKED AWAY FROM THE CONCEPT OF THE HISTORIC COMMITMENT. THE MINORITY WITHIN THE PARTY, HOWEVER, ADVOCATED THE NEED TO CREATE A PARTY ON THE LEFT AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PCI AND CAPABLE OF EVENTUALLY REPLACING IT AS THE MAIN FORCE OF THE LEFT IN ITALY. COMPLICATING THE EQUATION, WAS A PROPOSAL FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ROME 03377 021916Z

INCORPORATION OF ANOTHER EXTREME LEFT GROUP, AVANGUARDIA OPERAIA, INTO PDUP. THE MAJORITY AT THE MEETING FEARED THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD PLACE IT INTO THE MINORITY IN A MERGED PARTY AND WERE WORKING TO RETARD THE UNIFICATION MOVEMENT. THE CLOSE BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE BATTLE IS REFLECTED BY THE FACT THAT THE TWO CRUCIAL VOTES LEADING TO THE SPLIT WERE DECIDED BY

31-30 AND 31-29 MARGINS. THE MAJORITY OF THE OLD PDUP IS NOW PLANNING TO HOLD A PARTY CONFERENCE IN ROME ON MARCH 5 AND 6 WHILE THE BREAK-AWAY MINORITY INTENDS TO HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS AT FLORENCE ON THE SAME DATES.

3. COMMENT. AT THIS POINT, THE OPPOSING POSITIONS HAVE BECOME SO RIGID THAT IT IS VIRTUALLY INCONCEIVABLE THAT A REUNIFICATION CAN BE EFFECTED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN ESSENCE, THE DEVELOPMENT IS A REFLECTION OF AN OBSERVABLE PROCESS ON THE FAR LEFT OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM IN WHICH LARGER GROUPS ARE BREAKING DOWN INTO SMALLER AUTONOMOUS GROUPINGS. IN FACT, THE RECENT UNREST ON THE CAMPUS HAS REVEALED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THESE AUTONOMOUS GROUPS HAVE EMERGED AND THAT POLITICALLY THEY STAND TO THE LEFT OF PDUP.

4. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION TO ASK IS PRECISELY WHAT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE EXTREME LEFT MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PCI. OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE IS THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE LITTLE POSITIVE FALLOUT FOR THE PCI. WHILE THE PCI IS UNDOUBTEDLY SATISFIED WITH THE SPLIT IN PDUP WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A REOPENING OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE MANIFESTO GROUP, AND THUS OFFER THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING SOME FORMER FOLLOWERS BACK INTO THE FOLD, THE EMERGENCE OF INCREASINGLY LARGE NUMBERS OF VOCIFEROUSLY ANTI-CPI AUTONOMOUS GROUPS ON THE EXTREME LEFT MUST BE TROUBLING FOR THE PCI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 03377 021916Z

LEADERSHIP. THE AUTONOMOUS GROUPS SHOW SIGNS OF FORMING SOME TYPE OF NATIONAL COOPERATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES, AND IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THEY WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO PARTICIPATE WITH FULL SLATES OF CANDIDATES IN THE NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THUS POSSIBLY PLACING TWO GROUPS TO THE LEFT OF THE CPI ON THE BALLOT. BEAUDRY

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